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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2967

BT

UNCLAS ANKARA 06094

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: TU, SCUL, PEPR

SUBJECT: NOAH'S ARK: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST

REF: STATE 205367

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SENATOR CRANSTON:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR SENATOR CRANSTON:

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF YOUR CONSTITUENT, [REDACTED] FOR A PERMIT FROM THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH ON MOUNT ARARAT. WE HAVE CONVEYED YOUR INTEREST TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAVE ASCERTAINED THAT [REDACTED] APPLICATION IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.

- I FEEL OBLIGATED TO POINT OUT THAT IN RECENT YEARS, APPLICATIONS TO CLIMB MOUNT ARARAT FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES HAVE GENERALLY NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE TURKISH GOVERN-

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STATE

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PAGE 002

NC 9120555

TOR: 271336Z JUL 82

MENT, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVE LOCATION OF THE
MOUNTAIN ON THE TURKISH-SOVIET BORDER. FOR THIS REASON,
I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT [REDACTED] HIS TEAM NOT TRAVEL
TO TURKEY WITHOUT FORMAL NOTIFICATION FROM THE TURKISH
EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THEIR APPLICATION HAS BEEN
APPROVED. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT A DECISION, WHETHER
FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE, WILL BE REACHED BY JULY 30.

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CORDIALLY,

ROBERT STRAUZ-HUPE

END TEXT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

END OF MESSAGE

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